

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



September 4 - 17, 2016

Monday, September 5

9:30 AM Program – “The Desert: It Wants to Kill You” Big Bend can be a dangerous place to visit, but don't let that scare you from exploring the park and having fun. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn about the dangers of the desert and what you can do to stay safe and keep the park wild. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Tuesday, September 6

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Blurred Horizons” As one looks across the vistas of Big Bend, both physical horizons and cultural horizons meet. Are the views we see today the same as they were 1000 years ago, or 10,000 years ago? Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a discussion of Big Bend's changing climates, changing inhabitants, and a window into the vistas of the past. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

Friday, September 9

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Building the Big Bend” Geology doesn't have to be a quagmire of cryptic terms. Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn some basic concepts and the events that have shaped the Big Bend. If you're curious about how the Chisos Basin formed or the history behind some of its conspicuous formations, be sure to go along. Meet at the Chisos Basin trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile walk. 1 hour.

Saturday, September 10

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Life at the Windmill” The desert may seem to be an impossible place to live but a significant number of living things thrive in this extreme environment. Join Ranger B. Smith for an hour of discovery and exploration into the secret, and not so secret, stories of life at the windmill. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south of Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring water and a hat. ¼ mile. 1 hour.

Sunday, September 11

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “History Beneath Your Feet” Big Bend is rich with history, including the very trails we hike. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn more about what the Civilian Conservation Corps built and how we maintain these hiking trails using similar tools and construction methods. Meet at the Lost Mine trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and wear good hiking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1 hour.

Monday, September 12

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Islands in the Sky” It is hard to stand in the Chisos Basin and not have a heightened sense of one's surroundings. The forested environment supports a variety of plants and animals not found elsewhere in the park. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a discussion of the “sky island” ecology of the Chisos Mountains. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

Friday, September 16

9:30 AM Program – “Tame the Wilderness” Would you know what to do if you got lost while hiking or got bitten by a snake and were miles from help? Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn basic outdoor skills which will help conserve our environment and help you feel more confident in the out-of-doors. Meet in the Panther Junction Community Room (adjacent to the Visitor Center) for this indoor, “beat the heat” program. 1 hour.

7:30 PM Photography Program – “You're Not Ansel Adams, But You Could Be...” Photography in National Parks can be a rewarding experience, a lasting memory, or just a way to document a place in time. Simple techniques will help you get the most out of your camera, be it digital or film. Regardless of format, the pretty view you're attempting to capture may not be what you think it is... Join Ranger B. Smith for a photographic and resource discussion. Meet at the pull out at mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Bring a camera, tripod, and a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Saturday, September 17

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Desert Trivia” What defines a desert? Considered desolate, uninhabitable lands by some, deserts can be places of spectacular diversity and stark beauty. Join Ranger M. Lavender and learn about the deserts of the U.S. and what makes the Chihuahuan Desert of Big Bend so special. Meet at Dugout Wells, 6 miles southeast of Panther Junction. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. ½ mile. 1 hour.